

Improving Effectiveness of SSI/SSDI Advocacy Programs for Jail- Incarcerated Populations

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California Health Policy Strategies, LLC



Why Disability Benefits?

- Federally funded
- Lifetime benefits
- Targets resource-intensive individuals



Why Target Jails?

- **High proportion of qualified individuals**
- **Stable setting**
- **SSDI benefits can be suspended as a result of their incarceration**
- **Outreach to jails could also help decrease homelessness, future incarceration, and mental health crises**



Estimating Unmet Need

- **16,000 Californians are likely to benefit each year & should be prioritized for outreach**
 - Roughly 559,000 (unduplicated) individuals were booked into jail during 2018
 - About 140,000 (unduplicated) people spent more than two weeks in custody in 2018
 - 11.3 percent of those people are assumed to be eligible for some SSI/SSDI application assistance (conservative estimate based on CDCR experience)

Housing and Disability Assistance Program (HDAP)

- **2019-2020: \$25 million**
- **State funded, requires county match**
- **Housing assistance + disability advocacy**
- **Requires best practices**
- **2017-2018: \$45 million one-time startup funding**



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Exemplary Programs

- **Los Angeles County - Countywide Benefits Entitlement Services Team (CBEST)**
- **Bay Area Legal Aid**
- **Davidson County Sheriff's Office, Nashville Tennessee**
- **Eleventh Judicial Circuit Criminal Mental Health Project**



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Best Practices

- **Engagement with Sheriff Department**
 - Buy-in increases access to applicants & documentation
- **SSA & Medical Partnerships**
 - Expedited processing times access to information
- **Dedicated program staff**
 - Eligibility staff, disability advocates (attorneys, paralegals, and/or non-legally trained staff), & acceptable medical sources
- **Coordination with other services**
 - Medi-Cal / insurance, primary medical care, housing, CalFresh



Further Information

For more information about California Health Policy Strategies please go to our website:

www.calhps.com

To review the entire report visit the following URL:

<https://calhps.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/disability-for-jail-incarcerated-populations-08142019.pdf>



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Alameda County SSI Advocacy

A Medical Legal Partnership for Disabled Adults

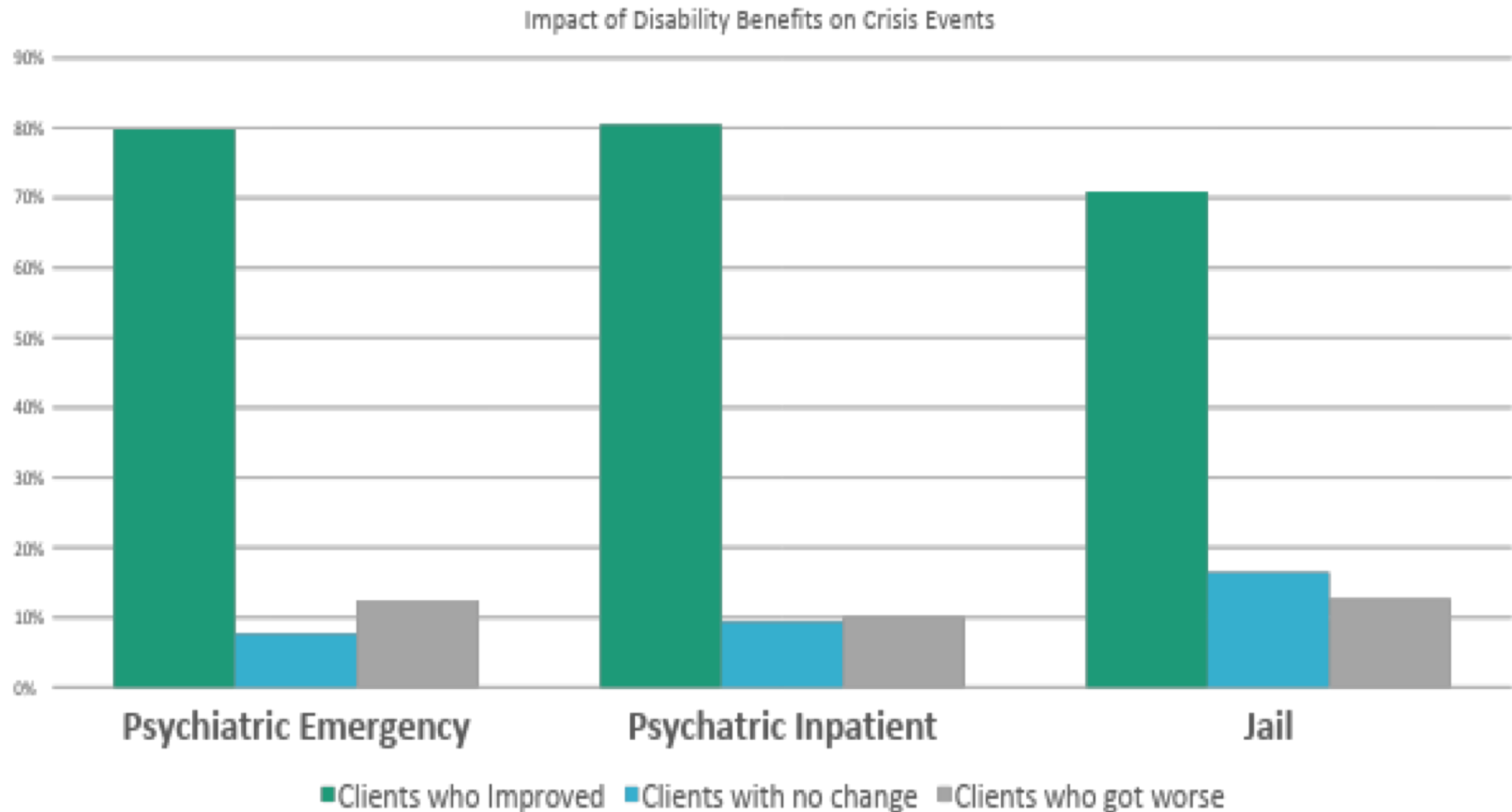
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\$164,287,646

Income Improves Health Outcomes



Unmet Need for Reentry SSI Advocacy

- **6,637 people incarcerated in Santa Rita in the last 2 years have been identified as disabled and do not currently have Disability Benefits**
 - 2,816 of these individuals previously received SSI
 - 2,234 must start SSI advocacy process again (because 12+ months have elapsed since discontinuance)
 - 582 are eligible for reinstatement (because within 12 months of discontinuance)
- **869 (13.1%) are currently represented by an SSI attorney**
 - 432 Advocacy Slots are funded by AB109 (with leverage)



SSI Advocacy Program Elements



SSI Advocacy

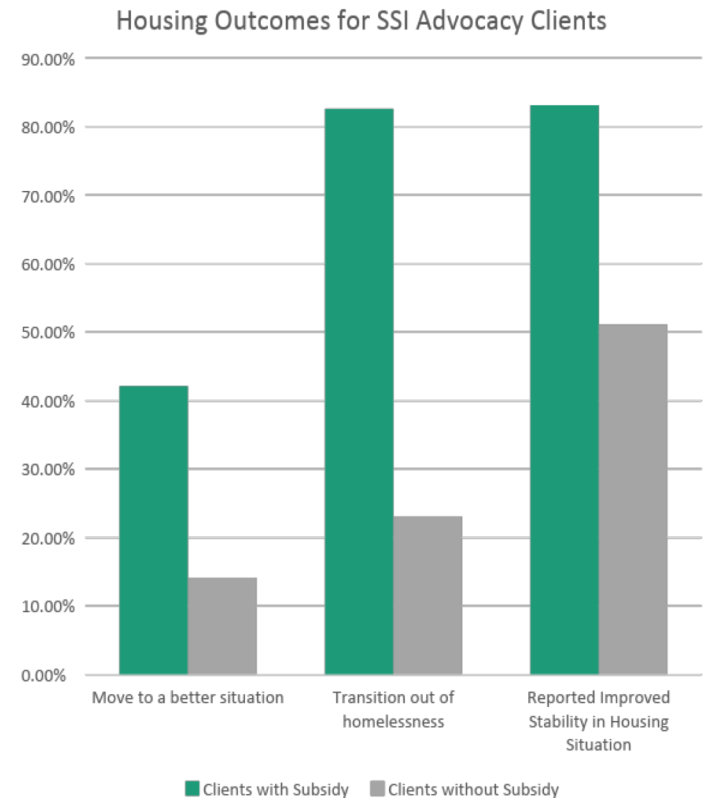
FQHC Clinic with Integrated Physical and
Mental Health Care

Behavioral Health Treatment and Case
Management

GA Housing Subsidy

GA Housing Subsidy – Improves Housing Outcomes

Housing Metric	Clients with Subsidy	Clients without Subsidy
Move to a better situation	42.1%	14.1%
Transition out of homelessness	50.4%	23.1%
Reported Improved Stability in Housing Situation	83.1%	51.1%



Funding Streams

Local Funding

- Mental Health Services Act
- Measure A
- General Fund
- General Assistance Reimbursement
- AB109

State & Federal Funding

- Health Disability Advocacy Program (HDAP)
- County Service Block Grant (CSBG)
- Medi-Cal
 - Specialty Mental Health
 - PPS Rate
 - Medi-Cal Administrative Activities (MAA)

Questions?

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